

## Stealth fighter added to Point Mugu Air Show performer list



Official U.S. Air Force photo

The F-117 has been an effective weapon in the war on terrorism.

The F-117A, the world's first operational stealth fighter aircraft will be on static display and will fly during the 2002 Point Mugu Air Show. It has been employed in combat during both Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Storm.

The F-117A is a single seat fighter and is designed to penetrate dense threat environments as well as attack high value targets with pinpoint accuracy. With an air refueling capability, the F-117A supports worldwide commitments and adds to the deterrent strength of the U.S. military forces.

The Air Show is set for April 19-21. Gates open at noon on Friday, 8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The Las Posas and Security Gates will be open for guests. The Main Gate will be open for decaled vehicles only.

The featured act is the U.S. Air Force Demonstration Squadron The Thunderbirds.

Security screening will be in place for air show events. All vehicles and personnel

entering the base are subject to search. Naval Base Ventura County strongly encourages guests to minimize the number of items carried into the air show area. The base will not hold prohibited items for guests.

Prohibited items include, but are not limited to backpacks, coolers of any size, pets, glass bottles, illegal drugs, alcohol, skateboards, roller skates, bicycles, scooters, weapons, knives and explosives. No solicitations are allowed.

Prohibited items and items determined not appropriate for entry into the air show will be the responsibility of the guest and cannot be accepted or checked in by Naval Base Ventura County.

Carpooling is encouraged to avoid traffic delays and ensure adequate parking.

For more information on the air show, please contact JO1(SW) Dave Hites at NBVC Public Affairs Office at (805) 989-0211, PH3 Brian Bynem at (805) 989-9266 or the air show hotline at (805) 989-8786 or visit the web site at [www.nbvc.navy.mil](http://www.nbvc.navy.mil).

## Photo team at top of their game

Story & photo by Bob Hubbert

NAVAIRWD photo team

You won't hear "lights, camera, action" when the cameras of the Point Mugu Photo Team start to record data. What you would hear, if you were shipboard and on-station somewhere on the Pacific Ocean, is the roar of US Navy Standard Missiles rushing out of missile tubes as they arch skyward in search of "simulated enemy" threats. And for an instant — in the blink of an eye — high speed "still" and digital video cameras record the launches to collect valuable data used in assessing missile performance.

"We've been recording missile data for years," says Phil Lucio, head of the Sea Range Optics & Camera Operations Section at Naval Air Weapons Division (NAVAIRWD), Point Mugu. "Now, with the new technologies, we not only record data as it happens, but we

have the ability to transmit images live, off ships, to almost anywhere in the world. It's important information, and we've adjusted so we can transmit both video and still images in real time."

Several members of Lucio's team did just that recently while off the coast of Kauai, Hawaii, onboard the Aegis guided missile cruiser *USS Lake Erie*. In late January the Missile Defense Agency and the Navy launched a developmental Standard Missile 3 (SM-3), with a kinetic warhead interceptor, at an Aries target missile launched from the Pacific Missile Range Facility at Barking Sands, Kauai. The launch and intercept were successful, and were "watched," live, by mission planners and key personnel both at PMRF and in Washington, D.C.

"By being able to both record and transmit data in real time, we stepped up a

See PHOTO TEAM, Page 19



Greg Senff, a photographer assigned to the photo team, readies Canon D-30 digital still cameras for an upcoming firing aboard *USS Lake Erie*.

AIMD Sailors volunteer time to help elementary school children ... Page 5

Mandatory PT Sailor makes leap to LA Marathon ... Page 8

# Disabled veterans experience the thrill of skiing

SNOWMASS, Colo. – More than 350 profoundly disabled veterans will take on the challenge of skiing the great Rocky Mountains at the 16th annual National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, to be held at Snowmass Village at Aspen, Colo., April 7-12.

Sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the clinic is hosted by the Grand Junction, Colo., VA Medical Center in VA's Rocky Mountain Network. It is open to all U.S. military veterans with spinal-cord injury or disease, certain neurological conditions, orthopedic amputations, visual impairments, or other disabilities. At the clinic, participants will learn adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing, and be introduced to a variety of adaptive activities and sports including rock climbing, scuba diving, sled hockey, and self-defense taught by the U.S. Secret Service.

"The American people appreciate our veterans and respect the sacrifices they made to protect our freedom," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "The veterans at this clinic demonstrate how indomitable the human spirit can be. VA is proud to be part of this event."

"Nothing compares with the Winter Sports Clinic for proving that disability doesn't have to be a barrier to living a full, active life," said DAV National Commander George H. Steece, Jr. Since 1991, DAV has co-sponsored the event with VA.

When asked what the clinic meant to her, one spinal cord injured veteran recently said, "Skiing is a great opportunity to have fun and build confidence. Once you've conquered that mountain, coming down full speed with the wind in your hair, you know you can do anything in life you've set your mind to." According to another veteran, "The opportunity to ski provides me with a feeling of independence I otherwise can't achieve. Being on the mountains among nature's beauty

brings me inner peace."

Known as Miracles on a Mountainside, the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic shows that the lives of disabled veterans can be changed forever when they discover the extraordinary challenges they can overcome.

Actress Bo Derek, National Honorary Chairperson of VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events, will attend the clinic to meet the veterans and bring attention to their courage and abilities. Running on the beach with her beaded corn-rows and bathing suit in 1979's smash hit movie "10," Bo Derek entered the annals of American pop culture. Today, her compassion has led to her involvement in a number of humanitarian causes. She was a special guest at the Winter Sports Clinic last year and at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games in July 2001.

VA is a recognized leader in rehabilitation, with recreational therapy programs at each of its 163 hospitals. DAV is a nonprofit, congressionally chartered veterans service organization with a membership of more than one million wartime disabled veterans. Challenge Aspen, a nonprofit Aspen based organization whose motto is "making possibilities for people with disabilities," will assist the clinic organizers in providing more than 1,000 lessons in downhill skiing for veterans with disabilities.

With 1,300 care facilities across the United States, the VA is a recognized leader in rehabilitation and recreation therapy programs. DAV is a nonprofit, Congressionally chartered veterans service organization with a membership of more than one million war-time disabled veterans.

For further information, contact Annie Tuttle, WSC Public Affairs Coordinator, (909) 422-3193; or Dave Autry, DAV Communications, (202) 554-3501. For additional information about the Winter Sports Clinic, visit the clinic Web site at [www.va.gov/vetski](http://www.va.gov/vetski).

## New online service helps military plan moves

The Fleet and Industrial Supply Center (FISC) Personnel Property Office (PPO) will soon begin a new program on the Internet to help Sailors arrange their household goods moves online, from the convenience of their home, work or anywhere they have Internet access.

The program, called SmartWeb Move, is a user-friendly, web-based program that allows eligible active-duty Navy service members and their families to arrange basic, routine moves to a new duty station or homeport within the Continental United States (CONUS).

SmartWeb Move, sponsored by the Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), is the first interactive program in the Department of Defense to provide application forms for moves and customized entitlements counseling online. For additional information you may access the web at [www.smartwebmove.navsup.navy.mil](http://www.smartwebmove.navsup.navy.mil).

NAVSUP's primary mission is to provide U.S. naval forces with quality supplies and services. With headquarters in Mechanicsburg, Pa., and employing a worldwide work force of more than 26,000 military and civilian personnel, NAVSUP oversees logistics programs in the areas of supply operations, conventional ordnance, contracting, resale, fuel, transportation, and security assistance. In addition, NAVSUP is responsible for quality of life issues for our naval forces, including food service, postal services, Navy Exchanges, and movement of household goods.

## The Lighthouse

The Official Newspaper of the Ventura County Navy Community

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## Air Force brings Nascar to NBVC



PH3 Brian Bynem

The U.S. Air Force/Motorcraft sponsored Nascar made a recent appearance at Naval Base Ventura County, Port Hueneme for a demonstration for the many Air Force students and staff stationed at Naval Construction Training Center, Port Hueneme. This car spends its time off the track but on the road to schools and shows as a recruiting tool used by the Air Force since 1999.

## If you should ask me...

### What do you like most about the military?



"There are lots of opportunities and I meet lots of good people."

BU3 Ronald Dent (Alysia Dent), NMCB-40

"I like the traveling and being here in California."



SWCN Nick Phillips, NMCB-3



"I like the traveling and the educational opportunities."

AZ2(AW) Alan Payne, NWTS/NBVC Force Protection

"I like the job stability and guaranteed pay."



PNCS (SW) Jorge Mercado, PSD, Port Hueneme



"Working with competent and professional people of all cultures."

Capt. Colin Sewake, Pacific Air Forces, Okinawa

# Community Calendar

## Seeking Science Fair Judges

We're looking for a few good men and women with some science background to volunteer as science fair judge for our community. If you want to volunteer, contact Pat Hollenbaugh, NBVC community relations officer, either by e-mail at [hollenbaughp@nbvc.navy.mil](mailto:hollenbaughp@nbvc.navy.mil), or call 989-1704. Make sure you go through your proper chain of command for approval to volunteer.

Ventura County Science Fair, Ventura County Fair Grounds. POC: Lermra Hernandez, (805) 388-4410, <http://www.vcsf.ws>, Date of science fair: April 24.

## Bring Your Children to Work Day

Mark your calendars for, "Bring Your Children to Work Day," April 25. This annual event brings our military bases and families together. The event offers you and your children a time to bond and to share with them what you do all day when they are in school. You also can learn something about what other tenant commands are doing with some planned tours.

Plan on doing something with your children for lunch and then take them to your work site to see what you do there. Watch for more details and information in the coming weeks.

## NAVSOC Anniversary

NAVSOC celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a two-day schedule of special events to mark the occasion. The celebration begins April 24, with a social followed by a golf tournament at the Camarillo Springs Golf Course, tours of NAVSOC headquarters at Point Mugu, and a dinner-dance at the Spanish Hills Country Club in Camarillo.

For more information on NAVSOC's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities, visit the web at <http://www.navsoc.com> (unofficial) or fax Paul Lagana at (805) 989-4313.

## Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive

The fund drive lasts for one month and will run through April 8. Contact your command representative to contribute.

All money raised goes directly to help Sailors and Marines. Last year, with your help, NMCRS raised over \$90,000 in Ventura. The society handled 714 cases providing \$316,000 in interest-free loans and \$16,000 in grants to Sailors and Marines in Ventura County. Contact Lt. Tim Lamb at 989-0909 or Lt. Ken Ball at 989-8891 for more information.

## Scholarship award

The Officers' Spouses' Club of Naval Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme is offering scholarships to college bound dependents of either active duty or retired service persons of Naval Base Ventura County (Port Hueneme and Point Mugu sites) or one of its tenant commands.

Applicants must plan to attend full time classes in an accredited college, technical, or trade school in the 2002-2003 school year.

Scholarship applications detailing all requirements are available through area high school career counselors and from the Resource Centers (libraries) at the Port Hueneme and Point Mugu sites.

Completed applications must be received by April 15, 2002. Any questions should be directed to the scholarship chairperson at 647-7322.

## Administrative Professionals' Day Luncheon

In honor of Administrative Professionals' Day, the Corporate Support Board at Point Mugu will host a luncheon for administrative professionals (office managers, resources assistants, office service clerks, etc.) at the Bard Mansion, Port Hueneme on Tuesday, April 16, which will include guest speaker, Brent Lierman. Tickets for the luncheon are \$10 and must be purchased by April 10. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

To purchase a ticket, please contact any of the following POC's for the event: Lisa Alonzo (989-7114); Betty Dalrymple (989-7095); Melody Dates (989-7832); ClaraMarie Korving (989-8534); Diana Morton (989-8763); Ev Cole (484-6447); Patty Self-POC at CL-939-0971; and Adriane Tejada - POC at NBVC - (989-7903). Door prizes will be given out at the event!

## NBVC Earth Day 2002 events

Earth Day provides an opportunity to increase awareness of issues and appreciation for the environment by the military and civilian community at Point Mugu and Port Hueneme. In support of Earth Day, the NBVC Environmental office is hosting two special events.

One event is the NBVC Earth Day 2002 Art Contest. Children 12 years old and under are encouraged to create a poster (no larger than 8 1/2" x 11") that represents "What Earth Day Means to You". A photo of the winners and their winning entries will be displayed in the NBVC base newspaper, The Lighthouse. NBVC Earth Day 2002 T-shirts and other prizes will also be awarded to the winners. Include a title and a one-sentence explanation of your picture on the front of your poster. Include your name, age, phone number, and parent's name and work phone number on the back of your poster. One winner will be selected from each of the following age groups: (1) 5 years and under, (2) 6 and 7 years, (3) 8 through 10 years, and (4) 11 and 12 years. A Grand Prize winner will be selected from the four individual age group winners. Drop off entries in designated drop-boxes at either Point Mugu or Port Hueneme Navy Exchanges between Monday, April 1 and Wednesday, April 10. Winners will be notified on Monday, April 15.

The second event is the 5K Fun Run/Walk. The race will start at 11:30 a.m. at Point Mugu, Bldg 1 on Thursday, April 11, 2002. We will run out to Family Beach and back. Everyone is welcome to participate. An NBVC Earth Day 2002 t-shirt will be awarded to the first ten people to sign up and the top three finishers. Sign up for the race begins at 11 a.m. in front of Bldg. 1. Subway and McDonalds will provide food and drink at the finish line.

For more information contact Laura Muhs at 989-3204, Michelle Norman at 982-1970, or Dean Johnson at 989-4740.

## Golf tournament

The Naval Ambulatory Care Center (NACC) will hold a golf tournament April 26 at 8 a.m. at the Port Hueneme golf course. Active duty military/DoD/retired military cost is \$35, civilian guest is \$40, which includes greens fees, cart and lunch. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place teams and the longest drive, plus more door prizes to be awarded. Deadline for submission of entries is April 22. All proceeds will go to the NACC recreation fund. Points of contact for registration or information are HMC Emmanuel Evangelista at 989-3916, E-mail: [huemeee@hue10.med.navy.mil](mailto:huemeee@hue10.med.navy.mil) or HM2 Arnold Ballesteros at (805) 982-6366, E-mail: [huemacb@hue10.med.navy.mil](mailto:huemacb@hue10.med.navy.mil), Fax: (805) 982-6526/989-3936.

# Navy students graduate from Ventura County Police and Sheriffs Reserve academy

By CECS(SCW) L. J. Guarnero

For CBC Public Affairs

Three members of Naval Base Ventura County recently graduated from Ventura County Police and Sheriffs Reserve Academy. CMCS (SCW) Steven Myers and SK1 James A. Samplankski from Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme (NCBC PH) and AD2 (AW) Jed Harder, Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) at Point Mugu each distinguished themselves during the twenty-one week academy.

Myers received the Academic Achievement Award for maintaining a 4.0 grade point average throughout the 42 learning domains. He was also selected by the academy staff to receive the Robert Stofey Memorial Award. It is given to the cadet who demonstrates outstanding leadership, inspiration and dedication throughout the course. Myers was also elected class sergeant.

Samplankski was honored with the Director's Award. This recognition is given solely by the academy director to the cadet who demonstrates the highest character, personnel traits and superior appearance.

Harder earned the Marksmanship Award for averaging the highest score during the pistol range phase of training.

Each of these Sailors will continue to volunteer in the community. Myers was invited back to the academy as a tactical officer due to his superior performance. Samplankski applied to become a reserve police officer with the Port Hueneme Police Department and plans to assist in future classes as an instructor. Harder will seek a position with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department.

Ventura College offers the course. Each cadet earns 12 criminal justice credits upon completion of the 21-week course. They are also eligible to apply to local police departments as reserve or full time police officers. Classes are conducted Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 6-10 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m.-5p.m.



**CMCS (SCW) Steven Myers** from Naval Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme received the Robert Stofey Memorial Award given to the cadet that demonstrates outstanding leadership, inspiration and dedication throughout the course.



**AD2 (AW) Jed Harder**, Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) at Point Mugu, takes a break during training for the Ventura County Police and Sheriffs Reserve Academy. Harder earned the Marksmanship Award for averaging the highest score during the pistol range phase of training.

# AIMD Sailors find new way to SERVE

Story & photos by JO2 Lynn Kirby

*Lighthouse Staff*

OXNARD, Calif. — The Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD) at Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) recently established a mentorship program at Oceanview School in Oxnard. AK2 Elizabeth Robinson, AIMD, developed Project SERVE two months ago. The project stands for Sailors Ensure Readiness in Vocational Enhancement.

Sailors from AIMD visit Oceanview School twice a week, helping students in English as a second language (ESL)



**AM2 Ryan Schuchard listens intently during a reading session with an ESL student.**

classes. With the help from AIMD, students are able to practice English in a one-on-one or a small group environment. Before Project SERVE, students sometimes didn't get a chance to speak because there was only one teacher.

"It's really hard when I have the whole class for everyone to get a turn speaking. Speaking is really important to using and learning the language," said Shirley Meyer, an ESL teacher at Oceanview School.

In the two months since Project SERVE started, the students have had significant improvement. The students have also gained role models to look up to. "I think it's good to have the Sailors who come to set an example for the kids to continue learning. The kids also learn to consider military service as an option. The Sailors really fill in as role models as well," Meyer said.

Meyer also said that with the positive response from the classes already being helped by Project SERVE, other teachers have come forward seeking help with their students. "We'd like to do more; we have more needs. The other classes want some (Sailors) to come in the mornings—they feel left out."



**AK2 Elizabeth Robinson listens while two students in an Oceanview School ESL class take turns practicing their English skills. Without the help of Sailors like Robinson, these students would rely on just one teacher to assist them in sharpening their English.**

Awareness of Project SERVE is growing rapidly within Oceanview School, and the demand for mentors is growing. Project SERVE was started by AIMD Sailors, but anyone who wants to help can. "I think when people are aware, more people will want to come," Meyer said.

Anyone interested in participating in Project SERVE may contact AK2 Robinson at 989-1328.

# Seabees lend a helping hand to the community

By Sarah E. Burford

Photos by CECA James Gerringer

NBVC Public Affairs

VENTURA, Calif. – Seabees from the Second Class Association at the Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme Base answered the call for help from some area churches recently, and made a difference in the lives of some of Ventura County's less fortunate families. The Seabees, all E-5s and below, took time out of their hectic schedules to provide tents, the manpower needed to set the tents up, a light plant and water buffalo for the Ventura County Convoy of Hope.

From the street, the scene playing out behind the fences looked like another carnival come to town, but for the working poor of Ventura County, it was the opportunity to get desperately needed health care and social services as well as a free lunch and groceries. While area doctors, lawyers, pastors, counselors and businessmen and women offered their services, the Seabees provided a sheltered environment for the long lines of people in need.

"We are doing ordinary things with extraordinary love," Ellen Chandler, media relations coordinator for Convoy of Hope, explained quoting Mother Theresa.

The Ventura County Convoy of Hope project was the brainchild of Rev. Tony Cervero, senior pastor of the Ventura First Assembly of God. As the need for services for the lower income families of Ventura County grew, Cervero and his congregation made a commitment to provide some sort of outreach. What they ran into was a tall, thick wall of expenses and logistical problems. To combat the problem, Cervero invited many of the area's smaller churches, congregations who were too small to have an event of their own, but who wanted to contribute, to joint the cause. Before he knew it, he had over 60 churches involved.

Using the already existing Convoy of Hope project, a not for profit organization who provided truckloads of food to needy people, organizers began soliciting local physicians, dentists and healthcare providers, as well as lawyers and help organizations such as the Red Cross and Alcoholics Anonymous. The idea being to provide free services to the needy.

Thanks to a little donated advertising and lots of word of mouth, organizers found a line of two or three thousand people waiting for the gates to open, and an estimated 6,000 people by the end of the day.

"The success of this event is all because of the wonderful people who donated their time and services. It is a real example of how this community can unite for a good cause. Having



**Seabee volunteers gave up a Saturday to help the less fortunate residents of Ventura. Here, they begin the process of setting up a tent for the Convoy of Hope event.**

the Navy here makes it even more special and more patriotic," said Chandler.

In addition to the services provided, guests were also treated to a wide variety of entertainment including carnival rides, live music, games and performers. Guests tapped their toes as they feasted on a lunch of hotdogs, potato chips and sodas, served out of a green Seabee tent, and laughed in the sunshine.

"These people are our guests of honor and we want to treat them with respect," Chandler explained, noting that many of our community's lower income residents are not always treated well. "We are taking our time here. Sometimes the attention is as powerful as the medicine." She went on to explain that the volunteers had brought their own sack lunches, leaving the hot food in the tents for the guests. "Our guests will eat first, and if there is anything left, we'll eat."

As the last guest walked away, as the last tent came down and the last bit of equipment was loaded into trucks, volunteers who had worked and those who had been helped seemed to share a bit of contentment and a closer bond



**The Second Class Petty Officers' Association volunteers prepare to set up a tent for the day of good will.**



**The Seabees work as a team to set up a tent for the Convoy of Hope, providing a place for guests to receive much needed services.**

with each other and the community. It had been a day of unity ... unity between churches, unity of the community and the military, and unity between the social classes of Ventura County. With the good feeling still in the air, talk of next year's event began to fill the air. It really was a day of ordinary things with extraordinary love.

Special thanks goes out to SW2 James Mathews, EO2 Shannon Farber, EO2 George Linneman, EO2 Lee Garner, BU2 David Zahm, EO2 Allen Thomas, CE2 Jamal Redding, SW2 Dennis Ryan, EO2 Joshua Petraitis and CECA James Gerringer of the NBVC Second Class Association for their hard work and Seabee 'Can Do' spirit.

# NBVC takes action to protect future from past

By JO2 Lynn Kirby

Lighthouse staff

PORT HUENEME, Calif.-Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) has been investigating sites here where PCBs may have contaminated the soil finding two sites with PCB contamination in the soil. In 1998, the Navy applied newly developed cleanup criteria to the contaminated sites. After nearly four years of analysis, research, planning and approval from state and federal agencies, the PCB-contaminated soil at the two sites is being removed.

"This has been in the plans for a while. We're removing the contaminated soil to ensure the public is protected," said Josh Fortenberry, Removal Action for sites 12B and 23 Remedial Project Manager.

Between 1929 and 1977 polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were produced by the tons in developed countries across the world. These PCBs were commonly used as coolants, insulating materials and lubricants in electric equipment. In 1977, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prohibited

the continued production of PCBs, identifying them as unsafe to human health. Prior to this prohibition, the Navy, as well as corporations across the world, were using equipment and fluids containing PCBs.

According to a recent NBVC Environmental Update, neither of the two sites poses an immediate risk to the public because the sites are not used. However, PCB contaminants found in the soil are present in amounts that require cleanup action according to federal and state regulations to allow future unrestricted use of the sites

The first digging to remove the contaminated soil at sites 12B and 23 began March 12 and will continue through to April 19 when the removal action is scheduled to be completed. Site 12B is a maintenance shop area between buildings 816 and 1192, on the western side of Port Hueneme. It was used to service generators and electrical transformers from the early 1970s to 1980. Approximately 820 cubic yards of soil will be removed from this site.

Site 23 is a scrap metal yard also used to temporarily store surface targets. It is located on the southwestern portion of the base, near building 457. In 1991, the site was cleared of materials, but the PCBs had already settled in the ground. Forty-five cubic yards of contaminated soil will be removed from three areas within the site.

The removal process is a very tedious execution. The soil is dug up a foot deeper than where PCBs were found. Samples of soil are then taken at the sites to determine if the PCBs go deeper than originally found. The samples are then



Photos by PH3 Brian Bynem

Leo Williamson tests soil samples for contaminants from the removal sites.

tested at a portable laboratory at the site to determine if PCBs are still present. If PCBs are still present, the digging and sampling process is repeated. Once it's established that there are no PCBs remaining in the site, clean soil will be brought in to fill the site. "Both sites will be restored to their original conditions," Fortenberry said.

The soil is being removed by a private contractor, Geoford, Inc., who will carry the soil in dump trucks to a certified contaminant disposal site in central California. All possible safety precautions have been taken to ensure the contaminated soil is contained within the trucks during transport.

This removal action is part of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) at NBVC. IRP is

a program that identifies, assesses and cleans up or controls contamination from past hazardous waste disposal operations and hazardous materials management practices. IRP follows the same steps and requirements as the U.S. EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) program. The removal action is an interim action anticipated to result in unrestricted land use at the defined areas of the two sites if the specified cleanup goal is achieved.

NBVC is evaluating other sites at both Port Hueneme and Point Mugu for possible cleanup of contamination from past industrial practices. For more information on NBVC IRP or to receive the environmental newsletters and updates, contact Gail Pringle at 989-9256.



A soil removal crew works to remove contaminated soil from the Port Hueneme base.

# NMCI on-site teams coming to a work space near you

By George Ramirez

*NMCI Customer Representative*

Assumption of Responsibilities (AOR) is the first key milestone to "get the ball rolling" towards actually delivering new hardware to your desktop from the Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) contract. AOR will be approximately a 60-day time period during which the Information Strike Force (ISF) will "shadow" their government information technology (IT) counterparts to begin the management and administration of the "as-is" IT infrastructure.

During the period leading up to AOR, a number of on-site teams representing the Information Strike Force will be in the NBVC spaces to perform a number of assessments, surveys and validations of the as-is information technology infrastructure. Advanced notice of the arrival of these teams will be given so as to minimize disruption to on-going work.

Following is a brief discussion of some of the teams that you may see in your spaces in the weeks preceeding Assumption of Responsibilities.

## CTR Team

The Customer Technical Representative (CTR) team consists of Government employees who act as the interface between the end-users and the NMCI contractor (the Information Strike Force). The CTR Team is responsible for coordinating the gathering and reporting of data up the chain of command within the Department of the Navy, and to the NMCI contractor management team. Namely, the Site Transition Manager and the Site Delivery Manager.

## Management Team

The Site Transition Manager, and Site Delivery Manager are two key positions representing the Information Strike Force. These individuals are responsible for overseeing the contractor workforce team during the transition from the as-is to the to-be and on-going operations and maintenance of the NMCI contract after the Cutover milestone.

## Facility Initial Site Survey

It is during Phase I that Validation Teams arrive to begin collecting data and working closely with site personnel to coordinate long lead-time activities. The Validation Teams initially assess facilities, security accreditation, legacy applications, and wide area network (WAN) provisioning. Validation Teams will also begin detailed assessments of the base area network and the local area network (BAN/LAN) environment, the existing desktop and server environment, and collect additional information on Security Hardware in order to finalize the NMCI design. Some of these activities are underway or have already been completed.

## Server Farm Activities

Most activities related to server farms are complete: server farm site, server farm concurrence decision, cost analysis for use of Government Furnished Facilities, fiber vs. commercial, and placement of preliminary circuit orders.

## Facility Initial Site Survey

Activities will include obtaining site drawing packages and environmental reports.

## Desktop/Printer

Activities will include desktop and printer validation, site user validation, preparation of validation plan and schedule, asset inventory, an environmental survey, and peripherals validations.

## Desktop Data Certification

Activities will include inputting validation data into a database, data certification, validation data forwarded to Design Implementation Manager, complete desktop validation and document desktop floor plans.

The on-site teams will benefit employees by having NMCI transition team members provide a first-hand assessment and validation of the overall environment in which they will be providing services. Once the teams arrive, users can be expected to be asked make their workstations available for a brief amount of time during which data will be gathered.



## 47th annual Electronic Warfare Conference dates set

By Melody Dates

*NAVAIR*

The United States Air Force will host the 47th Annual Joint Electronic Warfare Conference at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas on 6-9 May 2002. An EW Intelligence session will be held on Monday, 6 May 2002. The conference is for U.S. Government personnel only. This conference is unique in that it is the only Electronic Warfare (EW) conference where the barriers to complete communication are removed by limiting attendance to active duty military and civilian representatives of U.S. Government agencies with a need-to-know. For more information on the 47th JEWEC, visit our web site at <https://jewc.mugu.navy.mil>.

The conference theme is "EW - A Proactive Approach to Emerging Global Operations". Topic areas include: Threat, EW Systems, New Technology Systems, EW Support Systems, Information Operations, Space, Avionics and Survivability/Lethality.

Billeting will be available at the Lackland Visiting Officers Quarters, DSN 473-0047/2556/4277. When calling for a reservation, be sure to mention the group id number 200100492.

This conference is not considered a training session. A DD Form 1556 may not be used in lieu of check or money order to pay the registration fee. The Air Force point of contact for the conference is John Geise, (937) 255-2960 (DSN 785). The Navy points of contact are Susan Hynds, Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, (805) 989-4018 (DSN 351) and Melody Dates, (805) 989-7832 (DSN 351). We can also be contacted via e-mail at [hyndssc@navair.navy.mil](mailto:hyndssc@navair.navy.mil) or [datesmj@navair.navy.mil](mailto:datesmj@navair.navy.mil).

# Seabee plays Taps at airmen's memorial



PH2(AW) Chris Perkins

**BU3 Jeremy Harmon plays Taps at a memorial for two Air Force Pararescue crewmen who died in a helicopter crash off the southern Philippines.**

**Story by Lt. Brandon Harding**

*NMCB-4 Public Affairs*

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa—The playing of “Taps” at funeral service for fallen servicemen is a time-honored tradition. Taps, as we know it today came to prominence during the Civil War in the summer of 1862.

There is some dispute about who actually wrote it, but it is generally credited to a Confederate soldier. One summer night a Union Army officer, Captain Robert Ellicombe, who had been fighting in the Seven Days battle, heard the pained cries of a wounded soldier lying on the battlefield. He did not know if the soldier belonged to the Union or the Confederacy, but for some unknown reason Ellicombe felt compelled to risk his life by going back onto the battlefield and bring the wounded man back so that he might receive medical attention.

Under enemy fire he crawled out to the wounded man and pulled him back to his camp. To his astonishment he discovered the soldier he had rescued was a Confederate one. Then he realized that the wounded man had died sometime during the attempted rescue. Ellicombe's noble effort to save him had been in vain. The Captain then lit a lantern to inspect the dead man. To his shock and horror he discovered the dead man was his son. Apparently his son had gone to the South to study music prior to the war and when war broke out he joined the Confederate Army, unbeknownst to his family.

The grieving Captain asked that his son, despite his status as an enemy soldier, be buried with full military honors. The request was granted in part. The father was allowed to have a bugler play at his burial. In the pocket of his son's uniform he found a musical arrangement, which he had the bugler play. This musical arrangement is what we know today as Taps.

Recently a Seabee from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Four had the honor to play this sacred tune at a memorial service at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa. The service was held for two airmen who were killed in a helicopter crash near the Philippines. BU3 Jeremy Harmon had read in the newspaper that the military was short on buglers to play Taps at military funerals. When he heard about the deaths of the two airmen he felt compelled to find out if they could use his help.

After making contact with Air Force personnel who were in charge of the memorial service, Harmon stated, “I just wanted to help out. It felt like the right thing to do.” Harmon, a native of Detroit, has been in the Navy for a year and a half and in NMCB-4 for one year. About his rendition of Taps at the service, Harmon remarked, “It choked me up a little, but it was an honor to be there to play it for them, rather than having someone play the tune off of a CD.” Although he hopes that his services will not be needed he said he would be honored to play for any future memorial services.

The Air Force was grateful for his service as he helped them pay tribute to their fallen comrades. As a nation we can only pray that the hauntingly beautiful sound of Taps may be played as infrequently as possible.

## NMCB-40 takes a look at projects ahead

**By JO1 Greg Frazho**

*NMCB 40 Public Affairs*

PORT HUENEME, Calif. — Navy policy dictates safety as everyone's responsibility. In the Naval Construction Force, something else that's nearly everyone's responsibility is what the Seabees call “P & E.” It stands for planning and estimating, and it's as vital to construction readiness as safety.

As the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Forty prepare for their deployment to Guam, planning and estimating is proceeding for a variety of projects, both at the mainbody site in Guam as well as at detachment locations throughout the world.

“Planning and estimating is developing a plan for project execution on deployment,”

said BUCS(SCW) Jerry Hatt, Fighting 40's operations chief. “We estimate the amount of materials. We resource our personnel and identify the equipment needed to do the job. And we estimate the man-days and time that will be needed to complete the project.”

Hatt went on to say that P & E for this deployment started full time once the battalion returned from its field exercise. It all culminates with the Readiness to Deploy Evaluation (RDE), which is conducted by the Third Naval Construction Brigade. While the casual observer might think P & E is something only the senior people in NMCB-40 worry about, that couldn't be further from the truth.

“Every project crew member needs to know what the plan is,” said Hatt, a native of Waynetown, Ind. “At my level, I'm more involved with manpower and resources.” He added that a big part of planning and estimating is the re-evaluation stage, which occurs 45 days into a deployment. It's the only time during a deployment that P & E information can be adjusted.

“We re-evaluate our plan at the 45-day review,” said Hatt, “And make whatever changes are necessary based on current manpower. Whatever we come up with, that's our commitment. The most important things are identifying the materials necessary to do the project and developing a realistic and challenging plan to complete each project.”

## Always be prepared



PH3 Brian Bynem

**On March 18, members of Boy Scout Troop 234 and Cub Scout Pack 3234 presented their National Charter to Capt. Jim Cowell. The troop and pack are sponsored by the Naval Construction Battalion Center and the 31st Naval Construction Regiment.**

**The troop will once again meet on Monday nights at the base Teen Center at 7 p.m. Presently they have been welcomed to use the facilities at Parkview Elementary. Along with camping and learning life skills, the Scouts perform service projects throughout the area.**

**If you have a son that is interested in joining the Boy Scouts, or are interested in supporting the Scouts, please call Dan Estabrook at 985-1598. For the Cub Scouts, please contact Lisa Nicholson at 985-3696.**



# SNI establishes new award

By ET3 Eric Glover

San Nicolas Island Public Affairs

SAN NICOLAS ISLAND, Calif. – Formal recognition on San Nicolas Island (SNI) for outstanding performance has been long overdue. Feb. 13 marked the dedication of San Nicolas Island’s new formal parade ground, its first ever color guard and the first joint military and civilian awards ceremony in many years.

The first Civilian of the Quarter award was presented at this ceremony. “This has been a welcome shot-in-the-arm for many whose efforts that have gone unnoticed for too long,” said Lt. Cmdr. Ray Schenk, officer in charge of SNI.

SNI’s Civilian of the Quarter award goes to Hal Meadows. A member of the Public Works department, Meadows is an operator at the water treatment and distribution plant here. Meadows worked long and irregular hours to ensure proper operation of the island’s sewer, water production and distribution systems. In addition, he volunteered his off duty time to plan and coordinate island beautification projects.

Along with the awards, SNI unveiled their new parade ground to symbolize a welcome change and a breath of fresh air blowing over SNI.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, the first-ever SNI color guard paraded the colors. All hands were in attendance while Schenk addressed his command and guests. “I have been amazed at the dedication and accomplishments of the people aboard this island,” he said. The Civilian of the Quarter award is the first in a series of well-deserved awards the OIC has in store for personnel aboard SNI.



**Lt. Cmdr. Ray Schenk SNI Officer-in-Charge, presents the Civilian of the Quarter award to Hal Meadows**

## NMCB-5 Sailor joins Navy in life-changing decision

By JO1 (SCW/SS) James G. Pinsky

NMCB-5 Public Affairs

Recently, Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Charley McCoy completed the 2002 Los Angeles Marathon in an extremely respectable time of 4:07:27. The 26.2-mile race is a daunting challenge even for the most physically fit Seabee, but McCoy’s first marathon would have been just a dream a few years ago.

In 1998 Charley McCoy Jr. was strolling through life as a sanitation worker for the city of Baltimore. His world, according to McCoy himself, was uncomplicated, holding as much hope for the future as the very trash he collected every day. Despite his uneventful lifestyle, he was a good man. He provided for his family of four including his then 12 year-old son, Charles and his 11 year-old daughter Dominique, by putting a roof over their heads and food in their stomachs. But McCoy, a small, soft-spoken, African-American man, knew that there was a better life for him and his family, so he took the first big risk of his otherwise cautious life by joining the U.S. Navy on Jan. 6, 1999.

“I knew I needed a change,” said McCoy. “I wanted more out of life, and by serving my

country I thought the Navy gave me the best shot at doing that.”

McCoy took the best and only skills he thought he had, his hands, and volunteered for the Seabees as a construction mechanic. It was one of many life-changing choices he would make in the next three years learning not only how to fix and maintain the machines that Seabees used to build structures that changed people’s lives all over the world, but how to rebuild his own life as well.

McCoy left Baltimore and his beloved Chesapeake Bay seafood for the cold confines of RTC Great Lakes.

There, he worked his way through the Navy’s boot camp and headed out west to sunny Port Hueneme, Calif., just sixty miles north of Los Angeles.

After a twelve-week mechanics course at Construction Mechanics “A” School, held at Naval Construction Training Center, Port Hueneme, Calif., McCoy reported to “The Professionals” of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Five.

For McCoy, it didn’t take long to realize that to be a successful Seabee meant he would have to be less of a man than he already was. McCoy was more than fifteen pounds over

**See MARATHON, Page 16**

# NMCB-4 visits remnant of the Cold War

By Lt. Andrew Cook

*For NMCB-4 Public Affairs*

PANMUNJON, South Korea – In July 1953, after three years of fighting between the communist Korean People's Army (KPA) and a United Nations coalition supporting the Republic of Korea on the Korean Peninsula, peace negotiations ended the conflict. The armistice agreement, signed at Panmunjon, created an artificial boundary between North and South Korea called the Military Demarcation Line (MDL).

Since hostility between the two nations still existed, the armistice also created a De-Militarized Zone (DMZ) extending two kilometers in both directions from the MDL. Almost 50 years later, the DMZ remains one of the most heavily fortified pieces of territory on earth, and is one of the few remaining remnants of the Cold War. The DMZ extends for roughly 150 miles across the Korean peninsula near the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel.

In the beginning, most of the DMZ was manned on the southern side by the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA). The U.S. 2nd and 7th Infantry Divisions of the U.S. Army manned eighteen miles of the DMZ. Although the armistice brought an end to overt conflict in Korea, hundreds of incidents, including ambushes, artillery barrages, axe murders and defections have taken place inside the DMZ since its establishment. The continued friction between communist North Korea and democratic South Korea has insured the presence of sizeable U.S. and other UN forces in the region ever since the armistice was signed.

In February, several members of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Four's Detail Pohang paid a visit to the DMZ. Cmdr. Tom Bothwell, who works for the United Nations Command Security Battalion in Panmunjon, arranged the visit. The group arrived at a DMZ outpost known as Observation Post (OP) Dora, about 40 kilometers north of Seoul. Rain and fog during the early morning hours reduced visibility to a few feet so there wasn't much to see. Inside the outpost however, a South Korean officer showed a short video describing the DMZ. After the video, they took a look at a



Cmdr. Tom Bothwell

**Seabees from NMCB-4's Detail Pohang pose on the South Korean side of "The Bridge of No Return."**

terrain model showing the location of two nearby villages inside the DMZ, as well as several security checkpoints.

The village on the south side of the MDL is home to 229 farmers who are exempt from South Korean taxes and military service. The village on the north side of the DMZ is often called 'Propaganda Village.' It appears to be deserted most of the time. On occasion the North Koreans use giant loud speakers in the village to broadcast propaganda messages to the south. This village also features a 180-meter high flagpole, considered the world's tallest, with a giant North Korean flag at the top.

After OP Dora, they drove to the site of a North Korean infiltration tunnel. The South Koreans discovered the tunnel after being tipped off by a defector. They drilled several boreholes in the vicinity until they were able to locate it and then dug an interception tunnel. The infiltration tunnel is several hundred meters long, extending from a small hill in North Korea under the MDL and into South Korean territory. Once they discovered the tunnel, the South Korean's poured concrete into it to seal it off and prevent the communists from

continuing their project.

After visiting the tunnel, the group drove to an area known as the Joint Security Area (JSA) that straddles the MDL inside the DMZ.

On each side of the MDL, there are several administrative buildings including some that are located directly on top of the border between the two nations. The door on one end of these buildings opens into South Korea, while the door on the other end opens into North Korea. These buildings are used by the two sides to hold diplomatic discussions and to host reunions for Korean families that have been separated by the DMZ. Visiting the JSA is a strange experience, mostly due to the presence of KPA soldiers standing guard just a few feet away. For most of the time they were in the JSA, there was at least one KPA guard watching them through binoculars.

While inside the JSA, they visited the 'Bridge of No Return' which is the only roadway connecting both countries within the JSA. The crew of the USS Pueblo (AGER 2), captured by North Korea, walked across this bridge to freedom in

December 1968 after spending 11 months as POWs. The bridge is also the site of the 1976 ax murders in which North Korean soldiers killed two U.S. Army officers while they supervised a work crew pruning branches from a tree. After that incident, the U.S. Army cut the tree down completely and demolished several North Korean checkpoints. The killings of the two Army officers prompted a change in policy inside the JSA so that soldiers from both sides can no longer cross the border and mingle with one another.

After the tour of the JSA, Bothwell took the Seabees to the Swiss Club at the Neutral Nations Supervisory Committee (NNSC) camp. The NNSC is staffed by Swiss and Swedish officers on the south side and by Polish and Czech officers on the north. Their function is to provide neutral oversight during negotiations between the two sides. Visiting the DMZ provides a great sense of recent history on the Korean Peninsula and highlights the reasons why so many U.S. troops are stationed in Korea and nearby Okinawa. It's no surprise that President George W. Bush calls the DMZ, "One of the most dangerous pieces of territory on earth."

# NMCB-40 medical team not taking chances

Story & photo by JO1 Greg Frazho

*NMCB-40 Public Affairs*



**HM2(FMF) Kelly Redden, attired in full protective gear, uses a backpack sprayer to treat the uniforms of det members headed to tropical climates on NMCB-40's upcoming deployment.**

PORT HUENEME, Calif. — In order for a military unit to be fighting ready, they have to be healthy. More importantly, they need to remain healthy. As the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Forty prepare to deploy to the Pacific, precautions are being taken by Fighting 40's Medical Department to combat possible debilitating sicknesses.

With detachments scheduled to go to places as varied as Palau, Barbados, Thailand and the Philippines, the weather will be hot and humid. Humidity means mosquitoes. Mosquitoes mean the danger of malaria.

"We use Permethrine on individuals' uniforms who are going to places where mosquitoes and a risk of malaria are prevalent," said HM2(FMF) Kelly Redden. "I did an insect treatment on about 80 uniforms." Armed with a backpack sprayer, Redden recently spent three hours on the battalion grinder treating the uniforms of members headed to tropical climates.

"We have a medical database, and we do medical intelligence reports and find whatever diseases and insects are going to be prevalent in areas we are to deploy to," added Redden, a native of Roland, Okla. "We also give shots like the Japanese encephalitis inoculation.

"We usually ask for two sets of uniforms [to spray], but we can do more if they want," said Redden. "Permethrine is good because it's a one-time deal. It's good as long as the uniform is serviceable."

## *NMCB-40 receives inoculations for deployment*

By JO1 Greg Frazho

*NMCB-40 Public Affairs*

PORT HUENEME, Calif. — Not very many people actually enjoy getting a shot in the arm, but when it means possibly preventing a serious disease, you learn to deal with it. Lately, many of the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Forty have been receiving their inoculations after morning muster as the battalion finalizes preparations for their upcoming deployment to the Pacific.

As a way to ease the enormous administrative burden on Fighting 40's medical team, the battalion receives their shots on the grinder, directly behind the formation. There, the medical team sets up three tables with syringes, bandages and other medical supplies.

"It's a big exercise," said HN Amanda Jones, a general duty corpsman. "We have certain readiness standards we have to adhere to. We give personnel the shots they need to be ready for deployment."

The vaccinations given by the medical team are many. "Each member has to have the Japanese Encephalitis series (three shots), tetanus, typhoid, yellow fever, flu, PPD (the test for tuberculosis), the annual HIV blood test and both hepatitis A shots," said Jones, a native of Dacula, Ga.

Not every shot however goes in the same place on the body. According to Jones, the Japanese encephalitis and yellow fever inoculations go in subcutaneous to the back of the arm. "Typhoid and everything else goes intramuscularly in the front of the arm," said Jones. "PPD goes in the left forearm for standardization of examining the results."

The job of inoculating an entire construction battalion for a deployment is neither quick nor easy. With Seabees in training, in the classroom, at the weapons range, planning and estimating, TAD or on leave, attaining 100 percent readiness is a big challenge.

"The percentile of shots received must be in the high 90s before we deploy," said Jones. "We started giving battalion-wide Japanese Encephalitis in November. We didn't start doing everything else until after Christmas leave. At one point we had shot lists that were 15 pages long. Now, we're down to three pages."

Jones has personally administered hundreds of vaccinations to the Seabees of NMCB-40, as has the rest of the medical team. With the last stragglers arriving to receive their shots, a daily presence by the medical staff on the grinder is no longer required.

"It's been a long process, but we've made a lot of progress," she said. "As far as shots are concerned, the battalion's ready to hit the road."

## MARATHON, from Page 11

the Navy's weight standard and the Seabees would not tolerate an out of shape Bee in their battalion because physical fitness is the Seabee's best weapon against fatigue in the physically and mentally demanding world of construction in a contingency environment.

He was immediately placed on the battalion's demanding remedial physical fitness program that swallowed up an extra hour of his liberty time three days a week for workouts. McCoy hated having to do extra running, push-ups and sit-ups. He hated the fact that he had to work out while the rest of his Seabee buddies got to go home to be with their friends and family.

"When the battalion placed me on remedial training," said McCoy, "Just the fact that I was there, working out when I could be at home, motivated me to work as hard as I could to get off of the program."

Those extra three hours a week turned out to be the best three hours of his life.

Each day that McCoy worked out with the remedial group his motivation grew; while his waist size shrank. In fact, with every hour he ran, McCoy lost a little more weight and a few seconds off his run time in the Navy-wide standard mile-and-a-half run until, in just under four weeks, he had managed to drop every bit of the fifteen pounds the Navy required of him along with shaving more than a minute off of his run time going from 10:50 to a blistering 9:10.

Now, well within Navy Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) standards, McCoy was free to walk away from the regimented after hours physical fitness program, but he didn't. In fact, McCoy started running more and more on his own before work, after work and even on the weekends. He didn't have to keep running, he had met the Navy's minimum physical fitness standards, and then some, but McCoy had figured out that what he had accomplished during those past four weeks wasn't just how to sculpt his new svelte physique, or scorch his fellow Seabees during the mile and a half run with



**Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> class Charley McCoy**

his Mercury-winged feet at the semi-annual PFA. No, what McCoy had discovered was that he had developed a new discipline for his life. Thanks to running, he was finally becoming the man he always wanted to be.

"Running is a discipline," said McCoy. "For me, running became the discipline that I used to regulate the rest of my life. I knew that by choosing to continue to run I was making a much bigger decision than adding a few more miles to my routine, I was choosing to make changes in my lifestyle and that's exactly why I joined the Navy," he said.

Lt. Michael Kuhn, Senior Orthopedic Resident at Bethesda Naval Hospital, understands the changes that had to take place with McCoy for him to complete a marathon, and sheds some light on just how he went from being 15 pounds overweight and out of shape to successfully running a 26-mile race.

"To be successful in running requires commitment," said Kuhn, "with McCoy, the level of commitment he needed to

train long enough and hard enough to complete the LA Marathon is a testimony to the fact that he had successfully become a goal-oriented person. Anyone, if they really wanted to, could probably train for and run a three mile run, but to complete the training necessary for a 26-mile race requires a level of commitment that the average person simply doesn't choose to have," he said. "For McCoy to train for and successfully complete the LA Marathon allows him to believe he can do anything."

The philosophy that runners, like McCoy, can be more successful in other facets of their lives because of their training is an idea that is nothing new to experts in the running community.

According to an article in "Running and FitNews," (Volume 18, Number 5) a publication of The American Running Association, written by Jack Lesyk, Ph.D., a clinical and sports psychologist and the Director of the Ohio Center for Sports Psychology, the kinds of people who choose to be long-distance runners tend to be more successful at everything else in their lives because of the focus running allows. Lesyk said that study after study indicates that the people who are attracted to distance running have higher IQ's, higher grades in school, college degrees, and higher incomes than almost any other group of athletes. He believes that runners may be more successful in life for the very same reasons many people avoid long distance running in the first place, dealing with the long hours of boredom. Lesyk said people who become and remain distance runners are people who aren't bored with the long hours of training because they enjoy their own mental processes, and that they tend to be "thinkers" who like having the time to think.

Running a 26-mile race gave McCoy plenty of time to think. Maybe he thought about how far he had come before he had ever stepped foot on the LA Marathon's course. He was in the best shape of his 36 year-old life. He was a promising 3<sup>rd</sup> class petty officer in the U.S. Navy Seabees, and he was a positive, successful role model for his family. All of the goals he initially set out to accomplish when he joined the Navy four years ago he achieved, one step at a time.

# NMCB-4 selects 2001 Sailor of the Year

Story and Photo by JO1 Rich Henson

NMCB-4 Public Affairs

CAMP SHIELDS, Okinawa—“When you have troops that are locked on to what has to be done, they’re going to do more than complete the mission; they’re going to do the same thing every mission.”

EO1 (SCW) Abraham Ortiz’s statement on mission accomplishment is just one of the things he instills in his subordinates. The men and women of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Four must have been watching and listening, because Ortiz has been selected as the Battalion’s Sailor of the Year for 2001.

“The way I figured it (the Sailor of the Year process), it had to be important for someone to call me away from the Det site,” said Ortiz, the Assistant Officer-in-Charge (AOIC) of NMCB-4’s Diego Garcia Detail. “I knew I was nominated, but there are a lot of stellar Seabees out there I thought that were better performers than me.”

Ortiz, a native of Rincon, Calif., entered the Navy in 1985, completing recruit training at Naval Training Center Orlando, Flor. After attending EO “A” School at Naval Construction Center Gulfport, Miss., Ortiz reported to his first duty station at Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas.

In 1988, Ortiz transferred from the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico to California’s Gold Coast and a tour of duty with NMCB-40 at Construction Battalion Center (CBC), Port Hueneme, California.

“Being able to work in a battalion and be close to home made my tour of duty easier,” Ortiz added. “I can put in a hard week of work and go home to visit family on the weekend.”

Ortiz’s next duty station was a short walk across the parking lot to the 31<sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Regiment at CBC, transferring from NMCB-40 in 1991. After working at Regiment support



EO1 (SCW) Abraham Ortiz

staff for a few years, Ortiz reported to Naval Submarine Base Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1996, assigned to Naval Intermediate Maintenance Facility Pearl Harbor.

Returning to the mainland in 1998, Ortiz was assigned to Construction Battalion Unit 406 (CBU 406) at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif. and later reported to NMCB-4 in June 1999.

Since reporting to NMCB-4, Ortiz has been praised and admired by fellow Seabees. With a straightforward attitude and healthy work ethic, Ortiz has been an outspoken Seabee; from ways of improving the battalion’s readiness to the discipline and caring of junior troops.

“Nothing irks me more than to see a good Seabee go bad,” Ortiz seethes. “I would rather take that person to the side and tell them their place in the Battalion is just as important as the CO’s or the command master chief’s position. When they realize their worth is just as valuable, you as a leader can make them the best Seabee or Sailor they can be.”

Ortiz has been a part of several high-profile projects involving NMCB-4 Seabees. He has attended all but a few of the Habitat for Humanity projects in Piru, Calif. During the 2000-2001 Far East Deployment, he was one of nine Seabees and six Marines who helped move and stage more than 400 junk cars from Okinawa’s Tsuken Island.

As the AOIC of Detail Diego Garcia, Ortiz oversaw and assisted in the construction of an ammunition handling pad at Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia. The handling area, built with AM2 Matting material, allowed Air Force armorers to safely move ordnance for aircraft involved in air strikes in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Becoming the battalion’s Sailor of the Year hasn’t changed Ortiz.

He intends to be outspoken and supportive of his command while setting the leadership example.

“I’m going to continue to be the way I am, because that’s the way I am,” Ortiz reiterated. “I take my job and training seriously because one day, one of those young guys is going to take my place, and I want to make sure that the best trained and best qualified person is at the helm.”

# At The Movies

## What's

### Needham Theater

Thurs., Mar. 29	7 p.m. Collateral Damage
Fri., Mar. 29	7 p.m. Big Fat Liar
	9 p.m. A Walk to Remember
Sat., Mar. 30	2 p.m. Return To Neverland
	7 p.m. John Q
	9 p.m. Rollerball
Sun., Mar. 31	Closed - Happy Easter
Thurs., Apr. 4	7 p.m. John Q
Fri., Apr. 5	7 p.m. Big Fat Liar
	9 p.m. Collateral Damage
Sat., Apr. 6	2 p.m. The Wizard of Oz
	7 p.m. Queen of the Damned
	9 p.m. Hart's War
Sun., Apr. 7	No Movie - Battalion Deployment

### Point Mugu Theater

Fri., Mar. 29	7 p.m. Domestic Disturbance
	9 p.m. The Last Castle
Sat., Mar. 30	7 p.m. Ocean's 11
	9 p.m. K-Pax
Sun., Mar. 31	Closed, Happy Easter
Fri., Apr. 5	7 p.m. Ali
Sat., Apr. 6	7 p.m. Count of Monte Cristo
	9 p.m. Spy Game
Sun., Apr. 7	2 p.m. Harry Potter

**A Walk to Remember (PG-13)**, Starring Mandy Moore and Shane West. A look into the budding romance between a small town preacher's daughter and the school bad boy.

**Big Fat Liar (PG)**, Starring Frankie Muniz and Amanda Bynes. A perpetual fibber learns a lesson about telling the truth and gets payback after a movie executive steals his idea for a film.

**K-Pax (PG-13)**, Starring Kevin Spacey and Jeff Bridges. A new mental patient that claims to be from another planet has a strange healing effect on his fellow inmates.

**Collateral Damage (R)**, Starring Arnold Schwarzeneger. Family man and firefighter Gordon Brewer is thrust into the world of international terrorism after his wife and child are killed in a bombing.

**Ali (R)**, Starring Will Smith and Jamie Foxx. The legendary Cassius Clay's rise from obscure pugilist to world-champion boxer Muhammad Ali.

**Ocean's Eleven (R)**, Starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt. A group of eleven professional criminals set out to rob three Las Vegas casinos in one night.

**The Count of Monte Cristo (PG-13)**, Starring James Caviezel and Guy Pearce. A young sailor is wrongfully imprisoned on a French island until he escapes and vows revenge on the men who framed him.

**The Last Castle (R)**, Starring Robert Redford and James Gandolfini. An Army general is sent to military prison for disobeying orders where he begins to lead again.

**Rollerball (PG-13)**, Starring Chris Klein and L.L. Cool J. A rising star of Rollerball, a futuristic deadly sport, isn't wise enough to realize that his team's owner will do anything for ratings.

**John Q. (PG-13)**, Starring Denzel Washington and Robert Duvall. A law-abiding father takes a hospital emergency room hostage after his terminally ill son is denied the transplant he needs by a health insurance firm.

**Queen of the Damned (R)**, Starring Stuart Townsend and Aaliyah. Chronicles the conflict between vampire-turned-rock star Lestat, his fellow vampires, and the awakening of a destructive and seductive lamia from Ancient Egypt.

**Hart's War (R)**, Starring Bruce Willis and Colin Farrell. A rich law student, who enlists to fight in WWII, gets captured and ends up defending a black POW accused of killing a white officer.

**Spy Game (R)**, Starring Robert Redford and Brad Pitt. A master spy, on the eve of his retirement, discovers that his protégé at the CIA has been captured in China.

**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG)**, Starring Daniel Radcliffe and Robbie Coltrane. A neglected British boy discovers that he has magical powers and begins attending a prestigious school for witches and wizards.

**Domestic Disturbance (PG-13)**, Starring John Travolta and Vince Vaughn. A divorced dad learns that his son's new stepfather isn't the upstanding citizen everyone thinks he is.



PHOTO TEAM, from page 1

level, and can now offer our customers the best service available,” said Lucio. “We no longer have to wait until we get off a ship or remote location to distribute key data.”

Lucio’s photo teams usually consist of two or three scientific & technical photographers assigned to each job site or ship. The teams are responsible for every aspect of photo documentation, to include still and digital video data. In addition, airborne personnel assigned to the photo group fly high overhead in modified P-3 aircraft to further record launch data as the Standard Missiles climb skyward. Once an operation is complete, the teams return to Point Mugu and turn over their tapes and film to editing and processing personnel also assigned to the section. In all, almost 20 professionals work to shoot and distribute data collected on assignments.

The team’s primary responsibilities keep them working almost exclusively on Point Mugu’s sea test range off the California coast. The teams, however, occasionally find themselves recording data on San Nicolas and San Clemente Islands, or on Navy or contractor support ships up to 100 miles south, west or southwest of Point Mugu.

“We go where our work takes us,” says Greg Senff, a scientific & technical photographer, and member of Lucio’s photo team. “We’re always prepared to support Navy operations anywhere, under almost any conditions. Some of us keep suitcases packed and ready to go; we’ve deployed on one-day’s notice.”

There’s plenty of work ahead for Point Mugu photo personnel. The Japanese Defense Force lands at Point Mugu in mid-summer, and their military



Point Mugu Photo Team  
A Developmental Standard Missile 3 (SM3) lifts off the aft missile deck of the *USS Lake Erie*.

personnel fire a number of coastal defense missiles at targets on the Point Mugu range. Photographers from Point Mugu will ensure that all necessary data will be collected when missiles find their targets in at-sea impact areas.

Gene Zaharov, head of NAVAIRWD’s Range Instrumentation Division, has closely followed the modernization of the photo team for the last two years, and, as with all managers at Point Mugu, he’s aware of changing customer needs.

“The photo team has been superbly successful in understanding customer requirements and delivering required photo products, be they still photos, motion pictures, videotapes, real-time video, or the latest in digital media,” says Zaharov.

“Its members are mobile, and provide support on land, on the ocean, and in the air. The team responds to difficult challenges and makes commitments that it keeps,” he continued. “The team is world class.”

The photo group recently won a very important battle: it was proposed that the team’s services be contracted out to save the government money. After the year-long process of comparison had been completed, it was determined that this group of professionals was unique, that no civilian organization or firm could do the job that was now being done by the Point Mugu photo team.

“We’re all glad to have the study behind us,” said Lucio. “We can move on, and into the future. We’re excited about new technologies, and what lies ahead. We’re customer-driven, and are ready to provide the best composite data anywhere, anytime and in any environment.”

# Preventing Child Abuse

By Pamm Klieman

FFSC

Most people are horrified at the thought of child abuse. We ask what can we do to prevent child abuse in our own community?

## Remember the “R”s

**Raise the issue!** Call and write elected officials, asking to support increasing funding for child abuse prevention programs. Encourage them to support *One Percent to Prevent*, which calls for *one percent of our national budget* surplus spent on child abuse prevention programs. Call your school district and faith community to sponsor classes and support parents through out the US.

**Reach out to Kids & Parents!** Donate used kid’s clothing, furniture and toys for another family. Be supportive to new parents, adjusting to new parenthood by preparing a meal, grocery shopping or babysitting, especially if they are without friends and family.

## Remember the Risk Factors for Parents!

Child abuse occurs in all segments of society but parents are at more risk when;

- ✓ Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- ✓ Isolated from friends and families
- ✓ Difficulty in controlling stress and anger
- ✓ Appear uninterested in care, kids are undernourished, without medical care or unsafe
- ✓ Serious housing, personal and economic problems

## Recognize the Warning Signs for kids!

- ✓ Nervous around adults
- ✓ Aggression toward adults or other children
- ✓ Inability to concentrate stay awake for extended periods of time
- ✓ Unnatural interest in sex
- ✓ Frequent or unexplained bruises
- ✓ Low self-esteem
- ✓ Poor hygiene

## Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect at 805-654-3200

Keep reporting it until something is done! All reports are anonymous, and remember you are not the investigator! If you have questions about the procedure, what to expect, concerns regarding your own safety, call NBVC’s Family Advocacy at 982-5037, Port Hueneme

**Realize that some parents don’t know a better way!** Sometimes abuse happens because the parent was punished as a child in an inappropriate manner. Other times parents don’t understand that kids are curious by nature and make messes! Often parents don’t know how to apply other techniques of discipline. New parenting skills can be easily learned with practice.

**Realize that without intervention generally abuse escalates.** It can be passed down from generation to generation. Kids often run away as teens, act out and find themselves on the street. Providing assistance to families soon as possible will minimize that possibility.

**Remove the shame and offer a parent in distress a well needed break!** Be a good neighbor. Parenting is a 24/7 job with lousy benefits! Don’t take for granted that it is the biggest responsibility one can acquire and the most humbling! Everyone needs help along the way.

## Review and Refer to the FFSC’s Calendar!

This quarter is packed with parenting classes from Birth Basics, a Childbirth Education Series, to Parenting Skills from 0-4 years. If the stress of single parenting, communication with your spouse, finances, divorce, or another deployment in these uncertain times is causing undue stress, take action and responsibility now! Don’t wait for a crisis or that one last straw to break! Don’t let kids take the brunt of adult frustrations. We are here to help!

### Point Mugu

**Please call 989-8146 for further information or to sign up for classes.**

Play Mornings, Every Tues., 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., Chapel Nursery

Preseparation Briefs, Every Thurs., 2 p.m., Bldg. 116

### Port Hueneme

**Please call 982-4117 for further information or to sign up for classes.**

Personal Financial Management, Apr. 3 & 10, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Executive TAP, Apr. 8 – 11, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Base Indoc, Apr. 10 – 12, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Retired Activities Office, Daily, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Preseparation Briefs, Every Tues., 2 p.m., Bldg. 1169

Baby & Me, New Time and Place, Every Thurs., 11 a.m. – Noon, Bldg. 1169



All service members shown as individual awards are members of VAW-117.

# Shining Sailors...

All photos by PH3 Brian L. Bynem



ATCS (AW) James D. Cassell receives a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.



YN1 (AW) Dante L. Gilhang receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



AT2 Calixto Calangi Jr. of AIMD Point Mugu, is reenlisted for six years by his father SHC (retired) Calixto Calangi Sr. who flew all the way from the Philippines to reenlist his son. Calixto Jr. received a \$34,000 reenlistment bonus.



ADCS (AW) Charles M. Crane receives a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.



AD1 (AW) Paul A. Hayden receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



AD1 (AW) Phillip R. Hill receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal from Cmdr. John Oberst, commanding officer of VAW-117.



AK1 (AW) Guillermo V. Hernandez receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.



Lt. Paul N. Flores receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

For submissions of military awards to this page, of your command or department's shining Sailors, contact PH3 Brian L. Bynem at NBVC Public Affairs.

e-mail: [bynembl@nbvc.navy.mil](mailto:bynembl@nbvc.navy.mil)

Phone: (805) 989-9266

Please send photos or high resolution, 300 dpi, .jpeg digital images with a full caption of all persons appearing in the photo including first names and ranks, the award description, and the photographer's name for recognition.

# New era begins in Navy education with STA-21

By Lt. j.g. Amy K. Pitts

NETC Newport Public Affairs

NEWPORT, R.I. (NNS)—On Feb. 25, a new era in Navy education began for Sailors who want to become commissioned officers. On that date, the first class of the Navy's newest fleet accession program, Seaman To Admiral-21 (STA-21), checked aboard Naval Education and Training Center (NETC), Newport, R.I., for five months of instruction.

STA-21 is the latest evolution in the enlisted commissioning vehicle, combining the previous STA program with several other programs. The original STA program was created by the late Adm. Jeremy Boorda while he was Chief of Naval Operations.

The STA-21 program is designed to meet the officer accession goals of the Navy in the 21st century, while at the same time creating a fair and equitable system for outstanding active-duty Sailors to receive a top-notch college education and become commissioned officers in the Unrestricted Line, Nurse Corps, Supply Corps or Civil Engineer Corps.

STA-21 combines the original Seaman To Admiral program; Enlisted Commissioning Program (ECP); Aviation Enlisted Commissioning Program (AECF); Nuclear Enlisted Commissioning Program (NECP); Civil Engineer Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program (CECECP); Fleet Accession to Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) — including the Nurse Corps option — and the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) program.

STA-21 selectees will spend eight weeks in Newport as students at the Naval Science Institute (NSI), co-located at NETC, and some will spend three to six months of academic preparation as BOOST students prior to NSI training.

NSI's first STA-21 class reported on March 4, one week after the first NSI BOOST class. NSI will provide instruction in six classes offered at NROTC units including naval science, sea power, engineering, weapons systems and navigation. BOOST will prepare other fleet Sailors for the rigors of academia.

The NSI program allows Sailors to concentrate on their other collegiate courses once they get to college, particularly important now that the Sailors must complete their degree plans in a 36-month timeframe.

The STA-21 program makes college extremely cost effective for Sailors. The program allots up to \$10,000 per year to the Sailors, to be used for tuition, books and fees incurred by students attending college full time for the entire year.

This sum will cover the total costs of many of the colleges that STA-21 students are authorized to attend; however, the school must have an NROTC unit for Sailors to attend.

In addition to the \$10,000 annual voucher, Sailors receive their base pay and Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), are eligible for advancement, and many will be eligible for fleet housing units as well.

Although Sailors are not eligible for tuition assistance or GI Bill benefits as STA-21 undergraduate students, they can use these benefits later for graduate school, if desired.

In short, students can attend school for free — in most cases — and enjoy their active-duty pay and benefits; the Navy gets new officers faster than ever, and the streamlined process saves money across the board. Approximately 505 Sailors will study in Newport each year before going to their prospective schools.

For more information on the STA-21 program, go to <http://www.sta-21.navy.mil>; see NAVADMIN 128/01; call DSN 922-9451/9447, (850) 452-9451/9447, or 1-800-NAV-ROTC; or send an e-mail to <mailto:sta21@cnet.navy.mil>.

## CECOS course director wins CNO Environmental Award

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) announced that Steven A. Covell, A.I.C.P. Director of Natural and Cultural Resource Conservation Courses at Naval School, Civil Engineer Corps Officers (CECOS), is the recipient of the Cultural Resources Management Individual Award for FY01.

The CNO environmental awards program recognizes ships, installations, and individuals or teams, for their exceptional environmental stewardship. Covell was one of

fifty winners selected from a field of 113 nominees for 18 awards in seven categories and will attend the CNO Awards Ceremony at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., on April 30.

The Navy has some of the best environmental programs in the world. CECOS is proud that Covell is recognized for his work and a recipient of this award. He has been a member of the CECOS academic staff for five years.

## NATO Exercise Strong Resolve 2002 a success

By Striking Fleet Atlantic Public Affairs

GDYNIA, Poland (NNS) - Exercise Strong Resolve 2002, one of the largest NATO exercises in the last decade, recently concluded in Poland. The exercise involved more than 33,000 military personnel from 26 North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations.

Strong Resolve 2002 demonstrated NATO's ability to handle two simultaneous crises in separate geographical regions. In Poland and in the Baltic Sea, forces dealt with a Crisis Response Operation (CRO), and in Norway, the scenario featured forces encountering a NATO Article 5 collective defense mission.

The commander of Striking Fleet Atlantic (SFL), Vice Adm. Cutler Dawson, commanded the CRO portion, with more than 15,000 service members participating. SFL was embarked aboard the flagship *USS Mount Whitney* (LCC/JCC 20) to operate as a sea-based Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) headquarters platform.

"What we planned to do in Strong Resolve was to exercise NATO's ability to conduct two very different operations simultaneously," Dawson said. "These missions encompassed the full spectrum of NATO missions. We also set out to implement and validate NATO's afloat CJTF capability. We were successful on all counts, and I think all participants had a tremendous learning experience."

For this exercise, the SFL staff was augmented by more than 450 personnel from all 19 NATO nations and 12 PfP nations, including Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, the Slovak Republic, Romania, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. PfP integration for Strong Resolve 2002 was at the highest level for any exercise ever.

*USS Mount Whitney* received the additional personnel during a port call in Kiel, Germany, and SFL personnel provided them with shipboard orientation and training on NATO operations and all facets of the exercise.

See NATO, Page 24

# Chapel Schedule

## Point Mugu

For information please phone 989-7967

### Worship

Sunday Mass: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Protestant Worship: 11:15 a.m.  
Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

### Religious Education

Childrens Worship: Sundays at 9 a.m.  
Catholic CCD: Sunday at 10:30 a.m.  
Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion: Tuesday at 4 p.m.

## Port Hueneme

For information please phone 982-4358

### Worship

Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass: Noon  
Sunday Protestant Worship: 9:45 a.m.  
(Children’s Church for ages 3-9)  
Christian Science Service: 2 p.m.  
Weekday Mass: Monday & Friday at 11:30 a.m.  
Weekday Eucharistic Service: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

# Navy Marine Corps Relief Society News

**Crochet Wednesdays** is going strong first and third Wednesday of the month. 9 a.m. - Noon. We will be learning how to make baby blankets and hats. Held at the “Bee Hive” by Bard Mansion. No experience necessary. We provide the yarn and the know-how. Come and join the fun.

**Budget for Baby.** Tuesday, April 9 and May 14 at Port Hueneme from 6-8 p.m. and at Point Mugu 9-11 a.m.at the Fleet and Family Support Center outside the entrance to Point Mugu. Come and get a practical look at expenses and tips on budgeting for new baby. Open to all new or expecting parents. Receive a free layette filled with all the things your little one will need. Call for registration 982-4409.

**Did you know...** The Thrift Shop can help stretch your budget when you need to buy household items at a fraction of their original cost!

**The Thrift Shop** is opened Mondays and Wednesdays from 10a.m. - 2 p.m. (excluding holidays). The Thrift Shop is a unique and special resource offering families items they use at very reduced prices. Items range from military uniforms to children’s clothing to house wares and you never know what else will show up. The Thrift Shop is located in Bldg. 829 behind NCTC (the white house) on 15th Ave.

**Volunteer Orientation.** April 11 at the NMCRS office. Come check us out and see what we’re all about or call for more information.982-4409

**Did you know that...**

**Funeral costs** could be as high as \$5000? NMCRS can help you identify the hidden and not so hidden costs associated with the funeral. Visit you local NMCRS office before the need arises.

**Vehicle repair loans** may be available to you through NMCRS. Need based they can offer interest-free loans for necessary vehicle repairs not affordable from your own resources.

**NMCRS** is a resource for all active duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families. NMCRS renders assistance regardless of marital status or rank.

**Doctor and dental bills** can break your budget!!! NMCRS can help pay those bills for medically necessary treatment at civilian clinics, doctors’ offices and hospitals.

**Power of attorney (POA)** is acceptable to the NMCRS as authority to provide financial assistance to a service member’s dependents when they are deployed.

NATO, from Page 22

The augmentees quickly integrated into the staff, and became invaluable participants in the conduct of the exercise, as they also got used to shipboard life and interacting with personnel from all military branches of more than 30 nations.

Petty Officer Wendy (Wren) Whitney, from United Kingdom’s Royal Navy, served as a maritime command and control information system operator during the exercise. “It was very enjoyable,” she said. “I met many different people from all different nations, and learned a lot about using Powerpoint and various other Microsoft systems. All of this gave me a very good insight into the exercise.”

Polish Army Lt. Col. Mirosław Lusiarczyk said all of the service branches and all of the nations worked very well together. “I was very glad to participate,” he said. “It was a great experience, and helped prepare me for the real situation.”

Strong Resolve 2002 was the largest NATO exercise hosted by Poland since that nation joined the alliance three years ago. In fact, the third anniversary of Poland’s entry into the alliance was observed while the exercise was being conducted. Dawson praised the nation for being an outstanding host.

“Poland has done a tremendous job hosting this exercise,” he said. “When Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski visited our flagship last week, I had the opportunity to thank him and the Polish people for the great support they provided throughout the exercise. They were very generous in providing air, maritime and land training ranges, and also provided significant support in providing ground forces, maritime assets (10 ships) and air assets (14 aircraft).”

In addition to the Polish president, SFL hosted more than 130 NATO and Partnership for Peace officials from 38 different nations aboard the flagship during a brief port call to Gdynia. These officials included Italian Adm. Guido Venturoni, chairman of NATO’s military committee; Army Gen. William Kernan, Atlantic supreme allied commander, and many of the military and political leaders of NATO and PfP nations.

In addition to *USS Mount Whitney*, other Norfolk, Va.-based commands participating in the exercise included Destroyer Squadron 22, *USS Donald Cook* (DDG 75), *USS Oscar Austin* (DDG 79), *USS Briscoe* (DDG 977), *USS Hawes* (FFG 53) and *USS Tortuga* (LSD 46). The experimental vessel HSV (High Speed Vessel) Joint Venture participated in the exercise as well.

Strong Resolve exercises are held every four years and constitute the capstone in NATO’s four-year training cycle. For information on NATO Striking Fleet Atlantic, go to <http://www.secondfleet.navy.mil>.

NAVAIR engineer’s life cut short at 26

“They may forget what you said, but they never forget how you made them feel” (Carl W. Buechner). No one proved this more than Vernon Lau. Even in just the short twenty-six years of his life Vernon impacted so many people. From his four years studying mechanical engineering at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas, to his two years at the University of Notre Dame working toward his master’s degree in aerospace engineering and his short three weeks here at Point Mugu working with the Tomahawk Test Team, Vernon touched everyone he met.

In December, Vernon had just completed his master’s thesis, which was based on research into the FA-18 E/F wing rock problem and ways in which similar problems could be identified. He was a top-notch scholar, who put himself through both his bachelor’s degree and master’s on full scholarships while working as a teaching assistant.

A fellow student at Notre Dame referred Vernon to NAVAIR Point Mugu, and through the Hiring Selection Committee he came for a visit to Point Mugu in October. Almost immediately it seemed that he knew he wanted to work here and the joy was plainly evident on his face as he observed the F-14s on the tarmac.

As an only child, Vernon was very close to his parents and was never more than a phone call away from them or his myriad of friends. He enjoyed collecting and reading comic books, watching sports and playing video games.

Vernon’s life was tragically cut short in an automobile accident on March 3, 2002. Despite the fact that he was only here for a short time, Vernon made an impression on everyone he encountered. And if nothing else, his almost constant smile and distinctive laugh will be missed by all those who knew him.